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### **State to Receive \$1.3 million federal grant to aid in training of displaced workers**

JEFFERSON CITY --The Division of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Workforce Development Board of Western Missouri, Inc. (serving west central Missouri) have received a \$1.3 million National Emergency Grant to aid workers laid off from three different companies.

The grant, which was awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor, will provide re-employment assistance for about 347 workers who lost their jobs from the Excel Corporation in Marshall, Honeywell Corporation/FRAM Division in Nevada and Holmes Group/Rival Division in Sedalia over the last six months. All three companies lie within the west central region of Missouri, which has experienced a large number of business closures and layoffs.

Funds from the grant will supplement existing training programs offered by the Workforce Development Board of Western Missouri and the DWD. A number of the displaced workers are already taking advantage of the re-employment services through the Missouri Career Centers. The DWD and Development Board chose to apply for the Emergency Grant after holding several Rapid Response meetings to assist the workers in obtaining training and new employment.

The DWD is designated as the grantee and the West Central Region Workforce Development Board will be the project operator.

"The skilled workers affected by these layoffs are tremendous assets to the workforce," said Joseph L. Driskill, DED director. "We are committed to working with the Department of Labor, the Workforce Development Board of Western Missouri and other local sources to ensure that these workers receive the assistance they need and are reintegrated successfully into employment."

Funds received through this grant will underwrite re-employment and training services to assist the displaced workers. Through collaborative efforts, partners will ensure that affected workers are aware of employment and training services. The employees may take advantage of a wide array of helpful programs including on-the-job training, assessment, job search or placement assistance, career counseling, training opportunities, case management and other supportive services.

In addition to these services, former employees will be introduced to the Missouri *WORKS!* Internet site, which features access to information on thousands of jobs in and around the west-central region. Use of the services of the Missouri Career Centers and the Missouri *WORKS!* site, [www.missouriworks.com](http://www.missouriworks.com), are provided at no cost.